



Fall 2017

BOYS REPUBLIC & Report

Late Night Host Jay Leno is 2017 Della Robbia Wreath Chairman

Acclaimed TV late-night show host Jay Leno serves as Honorary National Chairman of the 2017 Della Robbia wreath campaign. In this role, Mr. Leno promotes the Della Robbia wreath program by appearing in literature advertising Boys Republic's distinctive holiday decorations.

Best known for *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno*, Mr. Leno hosted the evening program for over two decades. *The Tonight Show with Jay Leno* won an Emmy for "Outstanding Comedy, Variety or Music Series" and a trophy for the *TV Guide Awards* "Favorite Late Night Show". In 2014, Mr. Leno was inducted into the Television Academy's Broadcast Hall of Fame.

His impressive résumé includes stand-up comedian, best-selling children's book author, voice-over artist, and the producer and star of the web and television series *Jay Leno's Garage*.

Mr. Leno's enthusiasm for cars and

motorcycles is apparent in his personal collection—he owns over 170 classic cars and 150 motorcycles. He collects and maintains his impressive fleet in an environmentally friendly car garage in Burbank, California that rivals any automotive museum.

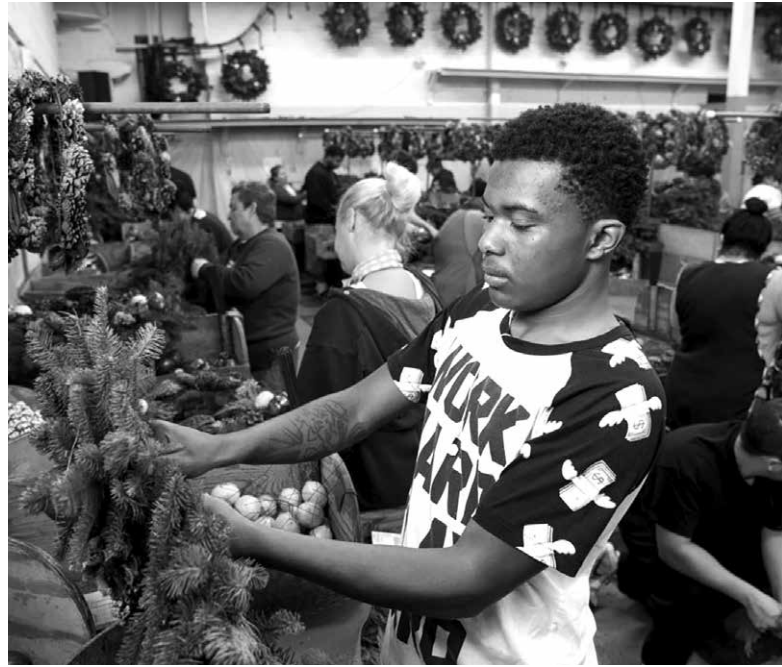


DELLA ROBBIA GREETING from JAY LENO'S GARAGE: Mr. Leno generously posed with Boys Republic students Karen Villa and Brian Coulter to help promote the agency's annual sale of Christmas wreaths. Jay Leno leads the annual Love Ride in California that raises support for charitable organizations.

Historic Work Experience Program Enters 94th Year

Since Boys Republic founder Margaret Fowler first saw the Della Robbia family's ceramics in Italy, the classic Renaissance wreath design has been integral to Boys Republic's Christmases. Drawing inspiration from the ceramic wreaths displayed in Florentine museums, Mrs. Fowler introduced a special craft project to Boys Republic students. In 1923, the students made the first few dozen Della Robbia wreaths from natural materials they collected and sold them door-to-door in the community.

The arts and craft project has since grown into a formal work experience program for thousands of disadvantaged teenagers. In the 1950s, Boys Republic's Board of Directors elected to convert the old campus gymnasium into a wreath production warehouse. Stations were created for students and seasonal workers to assemble fresh evergreen wreaths, a conveyor belt was installed to carry the holiday boughs to the shipping room, and the vintage basketball court served as a packaging



FESTIVE HOLIDAY BOUGHS: The classic Della Robbia wreaths are hand crafted from fresh evergreen and adorned with apples and lemons, teasel, lotus pods, and flowering eucalyptus. Above, a Boys Republic student assembles individual wreaths.

area for thousands of wreaths to be boxed for shipment.

In this formal setting, disadvantaged teenagers continue to receive warehouse work training. Students first prepare for wreath production by taking a course that covers warehouse safety and work expectations. They then put their new knowledge into practice once wreath production begins. Just before Thanksgiving, teenagers join seasonal employees to help assemble, package, and ship Della Robbia wreaths.

Every student on campus works in each area of the Della Robbia wreath warehouse, including assembly and shipping. The teenagers sort decorative apples and lemons, assemble rings of rustic seed pods that are affixed to the boughs, package each wreath, and stack the boxes into delivery trucks. These experiences require students to meet the real demands of warehouse work while they learn the necessary habits they need to become employable young adults.

Della Robbia wreath production teaches at-risk teenagers the value of reporting to their work shift on time, taking care of factory equipment and



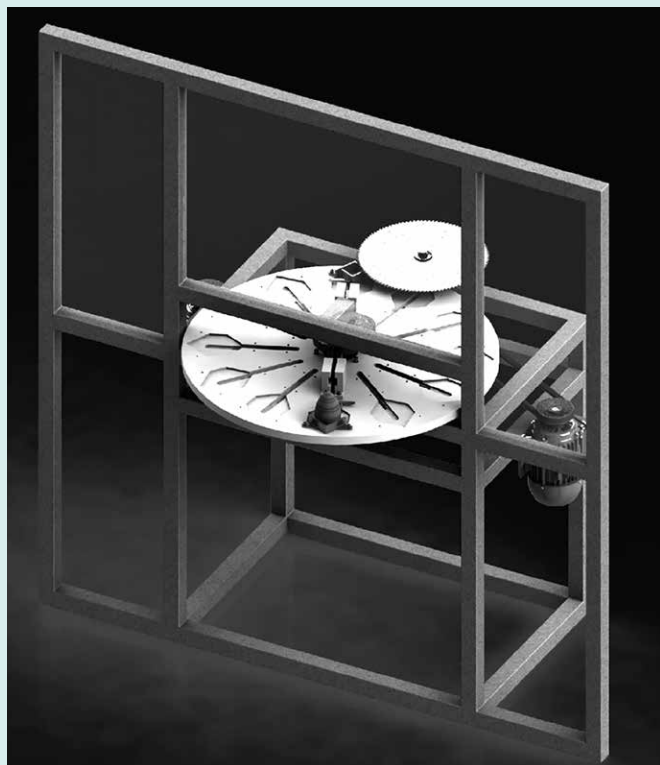
AFTER SCHOOL WORK: Wreath production teaches students employable work habits. In order to assemble and package an average of 3,000 wreaths per day, students must cooperate with one another, maintain a steady work pace, and follow a supervisor's instructions.

tools, and following their supervisor's instructions. With over 3,000 wreaths to assemble and ship per day, students must also cooperate and work together to complete the task at hand. At the end of wreath season, students leave with a warehouse work certificate and significant work experience.

Just as importantly, students laboring in the wreath warehouse help generate financial support and community awareness for Boys Republic. As the teenagers earn part of their own way in the agency's program by working in wreath production, they come to appreciate the hard work and dedication required for a successful Della Robbia wreath campaign. Della Robbia wreath production lets students join the ninety-four year tradition of assembling and selling the classic wreaths to dedicated customers nationwide and abroad.



THE GIVING SEASON: In the wreath warehouse, students and staff work together to produce Della Robbia wreaths. Each wreath is truly a gift within a gift: wreath sales support Boys Republic's programs in guidance and education and provide teens with realistic work experience.



PROJECT PONDEROSA is the title Cal Poly Pomona students have given the pod cutting machines they've engineered for Boys Republic. Above is a rendering of one of the semi-automated machines. The frame holds all the components of the machine, including the work wheel, the motors, and the pulleys needed to cut each pod and cone.

Engineering Students Help Modernize Wreath Production

Della Robbia wreath production is a year-round job. Tens of thousands of pods and cones must be cut before wreaths are assembled. Currently, adult employees manually operate a band saw to cut the natural decorations that adorn the wreaths.

This time-consuming method is being improved upon by a group of Cal Poly Pomona Engineering students. For their senior project, the students designed two semi-automated pod cutters that are a safer and more efficient method for cutting the cones and pods. The automated pod cutters will increase production rates and, significantly, can be safely operated by Boys Republic students.

The General Motors Foundation has fully funded the project and machine upkeep expenses with a \$15,000 grant. Both the generous grant and the innovative work by the Cal Poly Pomona Engineering team will give Boys Republic students the opportunity to learn how to operate and maintain the type of machinery that they would encounter in any real-world factory job.

“Introduction to College” Class Inspires At-Risk Students

“Michael Jordan,” Isaac reads from the piece of paper he fished from the box. “Um, student government?” Michael guesses. “Spanish club! ...Or some kind of language club,” Carlos chimes in. “No, it has to be something like yoga or stretching, right?,” queries Alex.

As the students guessed which college club the basketball legend belonged to, they became aware of the many organizations and clubs their idols participated in when they attended universities. The guessing game was part of a larger class held on Boys Republic’s main campus.

Called “Introduction to College,” the class brings together volunteer instructors and Boys Republic students who are interested in attending college. Every Thursday over a seven week period, the instructors come to the Chino Hills campus to teach the class. The course is designed to introduce the teenagers to college applications, financial aid, opportunities available to them at college, and developing soft skills to successfully manage a full-time student workload.

Students like Isaac, Michael, and Carlos who played the guessing game also learned about student government, intramural sports, internships, study abroad programs, and time-management strategies during the session. The eager students spent the class at three different stations for half an hour each. Switching from station to station helps the young participants learn numerous strategies for college success, and they get to interact with all nine volunteers leading the class.

The volunteer instructors—all of whom are current college students or recent graduates—are associated with The Reintegration Academy. The Reintegration Academy is a non-profit organization that primarily serves adults who have been institutionalized. The organization helps enroll adults in college, offers them academic and vocational courses, and provides financial assistance for course materials.

The instructors volunteering their time at Boys



A TEACHABLE MOMENT: Volunteer instructors discuss extracurricular activities with students during an “Introduction to College” class session. The class, which was held from September 21 to November 9, familiarized students with college life and taught them strategies for success in higher education and life.

Republic share their personal experiences and knowledge with the eighteen students enrolled in the class. The instructors are accessible resources for students interested in higher education, either academic or vocational. “The instructors are really cool,” Carlos says. “I feel like I can relate to some of them and they understand where we are coming from.”

Boys Republic student Isaac agrees with Carlos, and he’s found the “Introduction to College” course helpful in other ways. Isaac wants to go to a community college and eventually transfer to a four-year university. “The class has helped me learn better time-management, personal responsibility, and how to capture the interest of the people reading college applications,” Isaac explains. Isaac says he also learned to identify some of his hobbies, and he is interested in studying a range of subjects from debate, politics, and art. Like Carlos, Isaac also thinks the class has made him aware of the financial support that is available to him. “I’ve learned that there are always opportunities out there, like funding from B.R. once I graduate,” he says. “I think this class really opened my eyes to a few things.”

Della Robbia News

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE BOYS REPUBLIC DELLA ROBBIA WREATH PROGRAM

FALL 2017

Historic Wreath Program Will Again Help BR Teens Earn their Own Way

When the first Della Robbia Christmas wreath of 2017 travels by conveyor from the hand-assembly area to the shipping dock in the Boys Republic wreath barn late this November, it will signal the beginning of the 94th season of one of the oldest and largest self-help enterprises undertaken by any child-care program in the nation. It is an enterprise as rich in history and tradition as it is essential to the school's work with hundreds of troubled teens every year.

As they have every year since 1923, the students of Boys Republic will greet the holidays with the crackle of dried pine cones and seed pods, the scent of fresh California evergreen foliage and the sight of piles of greenery, boxes of fresh apples and lemons and stacks of shipping cartons.

Della Robbias come in two sizes. A 22-inch diameter wreath sells for \$52.95 complete with applicable taxes, shipping and handling. A 28-inch diameter wreath is priced at \$74.95, taxes, shipping and handling included. Wreaths can be bought by check, money order, Master Card, Visa, Discover, or American Express Card.

Last-minute orders can be placed by telephone at

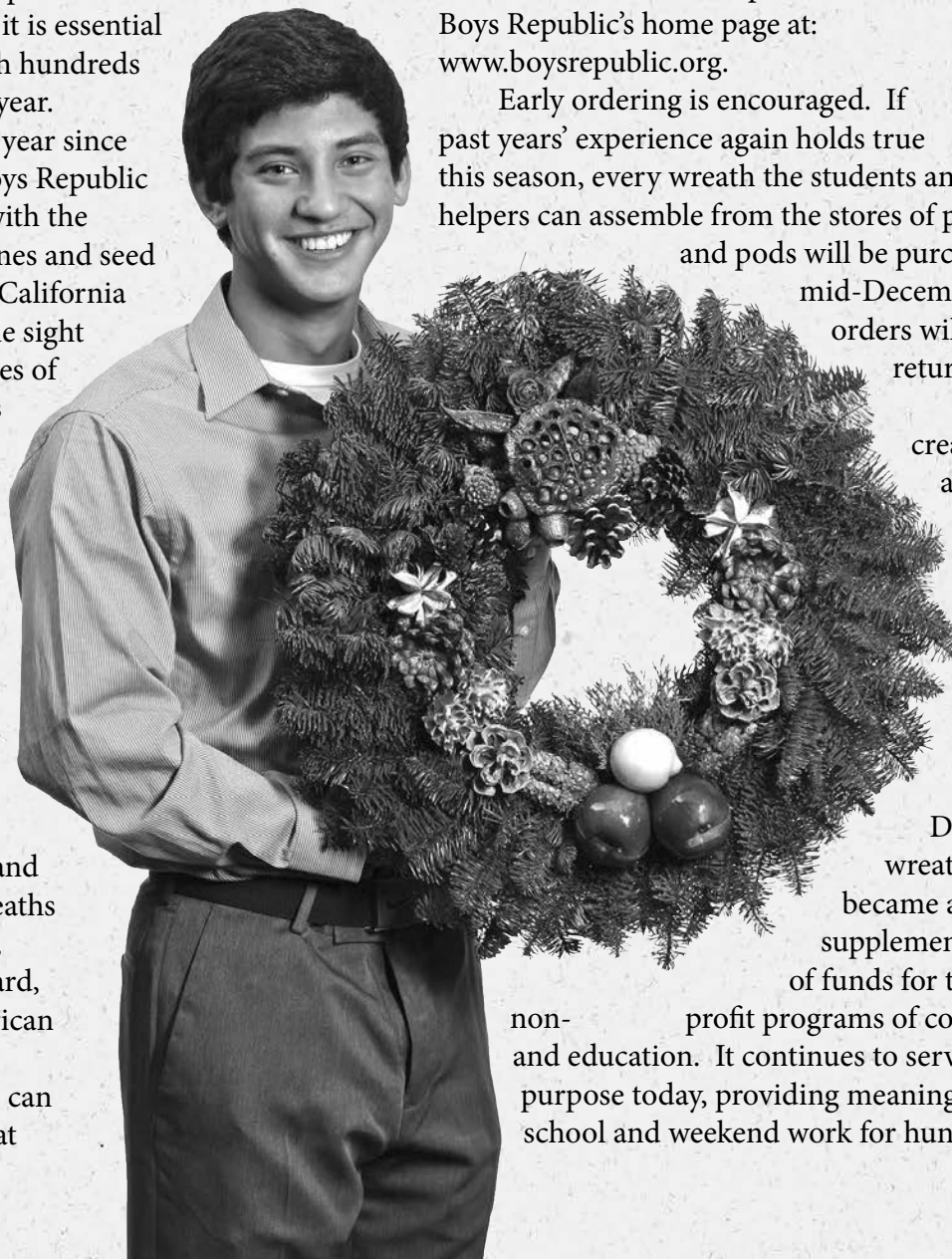
1-(800) 833-7769. Wreaths can also be ordered using the enclosed form. The completed form can be faxed to (909) 628-9688 or mailed to Boys Republic at 1907 Boys Republic Drive, Chino Hills, CA 91709.

Della Robbia wreaths can also be ordered by computer, using the Internet. Orders can be placed via Boys Republic's home page at: www.boysrepublic.org.

Early ordering is encouraged. If past years' experience again holds true this season, every wreath the students and their adult helpers can assemble from the stores of pine cones and pods will be purchased by mid-December and late orders will have to be returned unfilled.

Originally created as a work-experience vehicle for students in residence, over the years the Boys Republic Della Robbia wreath campaign became as well a supplemental source of funds for the agency's

non-profit programs of counseling and education. It continues to serve that dual purpose today, providing meaningful after-school and weekend work for hundreds of



Distinctive Della Robbia Wreaths Called ‘The Very Image of Holiday Celebrating’

They have been called “the very image of holiday celebrating” and “Christmas cheer in a box.” They are Boys Republic’s world-famous Della Robbia Christmas wreaths, distinctive, all-natural decorations that have been an important part of Christmas to families throughout the nation and elsewhere for 94 years.

Hefty rings of fresh California evergreen boughs

encrusted with pine cones, seed pods and burrs and then highlighted with fresh apples and lemons, Della Robbia wreaths look and smell like Christmas, itself.

Because of the fresh materials they contain, the final hand-assembly, packaging and shipment of the finished wreaths is limited to a period of only a few weeks at the start of the holiday season. Yet each Della Robbia wreath represents a full year of effort

Anatomy of a Della Robbia

FLOWERING EUCALYPTUS

These “fat thimbles” come from blooming eucalyptus trees in Ventura and Whittier, California.

PINE CONES

Cones from a variety of pine and fir trees are used in every wreath, some gathered at altitudes of up to 10,000 feet in the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

EVERGREEN BOUGHS

Supple noble fir evergreens are harvested in the forests of Oregon and Washington. No trees are harmed in the pruning process.

PLUMOSUM

Named for their feather-like plumes, these novel cones are native to Israel and South Africa.

WINESAP APPLES & FRESH LEMONS

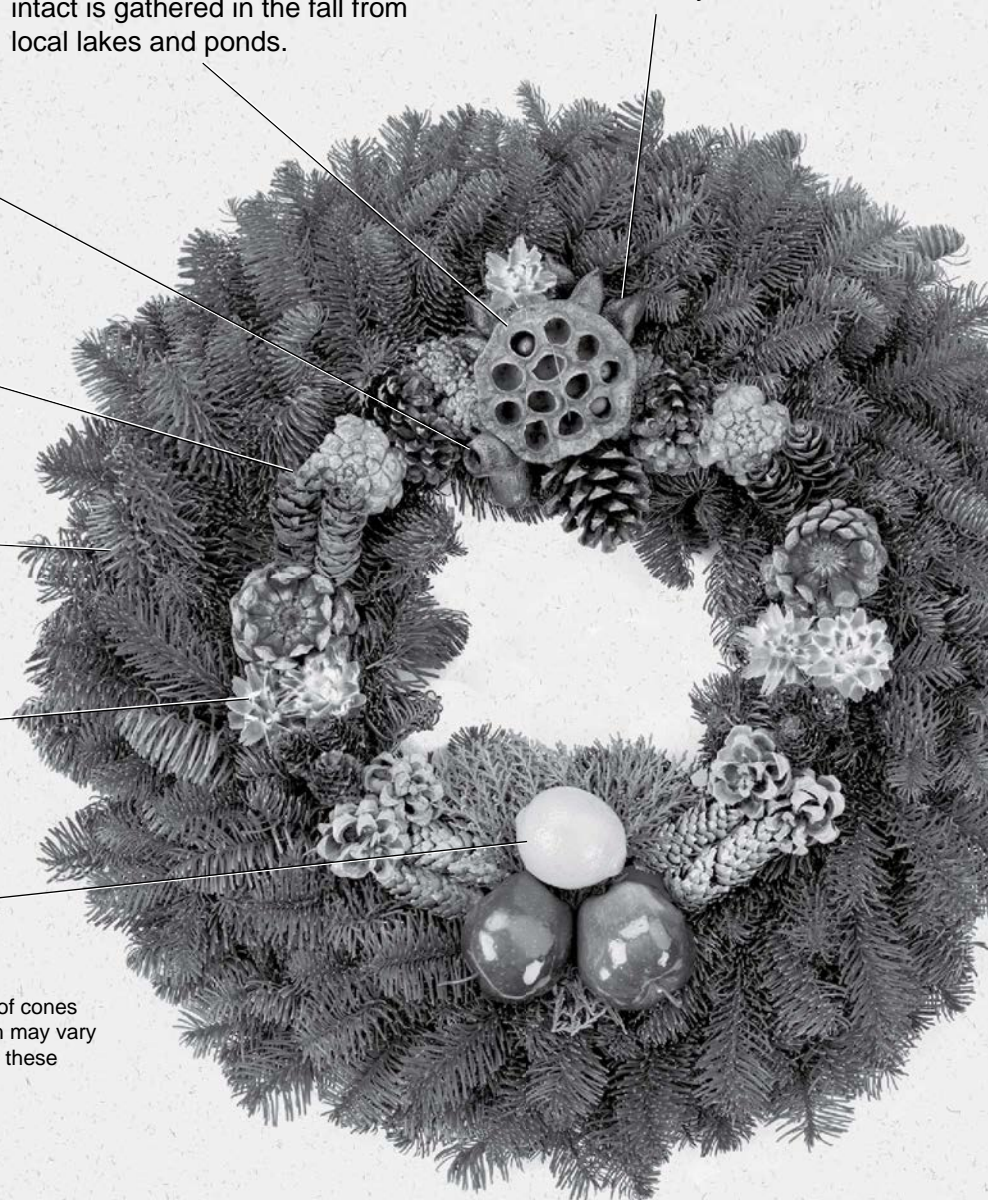
Hand-rubbed in alcohol and then lacquered to keep them colorful and

LOTUS POD

This distinctive water lily seed casing with many of the seeds still intact is gathered in the fall from local lakes and ponds.

BOTTLE TREE POD

This pod is from a tree native to Australia and now grows in San Fernando Valley, California.



Note: The number, selection and placement of cones and seedpods upon the Della Robbia Wreath may vary each year, depending upon the availability of these natural materials.

Phone, Fax, Modem or Mail In Your
Last-Minute Wreath Orders

Phone: (800) 833-7769 **Fax** (909) 628-9688

Internet: www.boysrepublic.org

Mail: Boys Republic, 1907 Boys Republic Dr., Chino Hills, CA 91709

WREATH ORDERING INSTRUCTIONS - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

1. PLEASE FILL OUT FORM COMPLETELY. INCLUDE FULL ADDRESSES WITH ZIP CODES.
2. WREATH ORDERS ARE PROCESSED AND SHIPPED IN THE ORDER RECEIVED.
3. WREATHS SHIPPED TO ARIZONA CONTAIN NO FRUIT; HOWEVER, THEY INCLUDE ADDITIONAL PODS AND A RED BOW.
4. ONLY 22-INCH WREATHS WILL BE SHIPPED TO ADDRESSES OUTSIDE CONTINENTAL U.S. AND THEY GO UPS OR AIR PARCEL POST AT ADDITIONAL CUSTOMER EXPENSE.
5. NOTE: DELLA ROBBIA WREATHS CANNOT BE SHIPPED TO P.O. BOXES.
6. AVOID DUPLICATION. IF YOU TELEPHONE OR FAX YOUR ORDER, PLEASE DO NOT ALSO MAIL IT.

**Wreath
Size**

SHIP TO:
(PRINT NAMES AND FULL ADDRESSES INCLUDING ZIP CODES)

CREDIT CARD PURCHASES

[] VISA [] M/C [] DISCOVER [] AMX Exp. Date: _____

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Cardholder: _____

PERSONAL & BUSINESS CHECK PURCHASES

Please make checks payable to Boys Republic

SENDER INFORMATION

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone No: _____

WREATH PRICES*

_____ 22" WREATHS @ \$52.95, COMPLETE \$ _____

_____ 28" WREATHS @ \$74.95, COMPLETE \$ _____

TOTAL ORDER \$ _____

* PRICES INCLUDE APPLICABLE TAXES, SHIPPING, AND HANDLING.

* Shipments outside of U.S. Continental limits must go Air Parcel Post or UPS at customer's expense.

Email: _____

TO SEND BY MAIL OR FAX, CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE

Della Robbias Evoke Holiday Charm and Joy

(Continued from page 2 of "Della Robbia News")

by Boys Republic and Girls Republic students and the professional wreath staff that works with them.

Beginning each January, sacks full of seed pods and pine cones used to adorn the Della Robbias are sorted, cleaned, drilled and wired. The cones and pods are then fastened together into decorative arrays and then stored in boxes and bins in an old gymnasium transformed into a wreath barn on the agency's Chino Hills campus.

Altogether, more than three million individual pods and cones from as many as a dozen varieties of trees and plants are collected, prepared and stored each year to await the holiday season.

The distinctive design of the cone, pod and fruit-studded Della Robbia wreath was inspired by the ceramic wreath sculptures of the Della Robbia family of artisans in 16th century Florence, Italy. Margaret Fowler, a founder of Boys Republic, happened to see an original Della Robbia ceramic while vacationing in Europe in the early 1920's, just at a time when she was searching for a craft project that would teach the children in her care the value of honest labor. She brought the idea home with her and, in 1923, the first few dozen Della Robbia wreaths were made and sold door-to-door for \$2.50 each.

So successful was the project that the following year wreath production was increased to 107. It was increased again for the third year and again for the fourth. Wreath sales quickly grew to 500 per season, then 1,000, then 1,500.

In the early 1950's, Boys Republic Board of Directors formalized the Della Robbia program, expanding it to serve as a key component in students'

work experience activities and as a primary source of supplemental funding for the agency's non-profit operations. They converted an old, red brick gymnasium on the main campus into a permanent

wreath barn and installed an automated conveyer system to speed the wreaths from each hand-assembly stage to the next. By 1955, production had swelled to 30,000 wreaths per season.

Today, nearly 40,000 Della Robbias are produced in a 13-day period between Thanksgiving and mid-December each year. But despite

that large volume, the wreaths are made as they have always been made, carefully hand-tied, one at a time.

Each wreath is packaged and ready to ship within minutes of being completed. Most wreaths are shipped within 24 hours of manufacture. Those having to wait an extra day are stored in a cooler to keep them florist-fresh.

Historic Campaign Enters 94th Season

(Continued from front page of "Della Robbia News")

students a year and helping Boys Republic raise nearly one-quarter of its own annual operating budget. Proceeds from wreath sales and other self-help activities and donations represent a savings to taxpayers of nearly \$4 million a year.



WORK EXPERIENCE: *The Della Robbia wreath program provides year-round work experience for teenagers preparing for responsible adulthood.*

Girls Republic Alumna Joins Agency Board of Directors

It is with great pleasure that we announce the election of Mrs. Elizabeth Anderson to Boys Republic's Board of Directors. Mrs. Anderson has the distinction of being the first Girls Republic alumna to join the agency's all-volunteer governing body.

Family difficulties led to young Elizabeth's enrollment at Girls Republic in 1997. She completed the program and went on to a permanent foster home through Boys Republic. She has an Associate of Sciences degree and a dental hygiene license.

Her first-hand experience at Girls Republic and within the child welfare system helps her bring a unique perspective to the Board. She has a strong sensitivity to the challenges facing disadvantaged youth.

Mrs. Anderson is a wife and a mother of five children. She and her husband live in Rancho Cucamonga.



Elizabeth Anderson

A Most Special Fall Harvest

From watering the neatly planted rows of tender shoots to picking the designer pumpkins they have tended for months, students continue the tradition of harvesting the special fall crop. Once ripe, the Landscaping students package the Tiny Tim, Cinderella, White Casper, and Fairytale pumpkins and gourds to sell to the public.

These "Boxes-O-Pumpkins" are sold for \$25 each, with 100% of the proceeds going toward the Boys Republic's Landscaping program. The seasonal activity serves as a work experience project for the students who harvest the varieties of pumpkins with the help of their instructor Derek Scott.

Although Boys Republic's pumpkin season is almost over, Landscaping students continue to grow from the project. Profits from the "Boxes-O-Pumpkins" are applied towards class materials for students to use to continue learning basic design, installation, and maintenance on Boys Republic's sprawling 200 acre farm and school.



Photo: Wade Winter

ALL HANDS ON DECK: Landscaping students join together to hoist a pumpkin from their yield. Every fall, the teenagers sell their seasonal harvest to the community. The project is part of the school's Regional Occupation Program (R.O.P.) accredited Landscaping program.

Students Earn \$33,650 in Scholarships at Annual Awards Ceremony

“Be patient, be persistent but never be bitter,” California State Senator Connie Leyva asserted. Senator Leyva’s advice for overcoming challenges to reach personal and professional goals was critical to the students and recent graduates attending the 110th Annual Awards Ceremony. Current students were motivated by the senator to progress despite obstacles in their programs and at home, and recent graduates were spurred by her advice to continue to persevere.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER: California State Senator Connie M. Leyva, who represents District 20, delivered an inspiring speech to students, graduates, and community members at the 110th Annual Awards Ceremony.

Senator Leyva was the Keynote Speaker at Boys Republic’s Annual Awards Ceremony on September 21, 2017. Every year, the ceremony unites students, staff, parents, and community members to celebrate the achievements of recent Boys Republic graduates.

Graduates receive scholarship awards for their scholastic success, leadership or overall program

achievement at Boys Republic. Scholarship awards may be applied toward school tuition or an apartment deposit. Graduates may also use scholarship awards to purchase food, work tools, or professional clothing to help qualify for a job.

Among the awards presented were:

- Fowler Merle-Smith Family Scholarship of \$1,000 to Daisy Vega;
- Frank and Marianne Graves Scholarship of \$500 each to Alex Navas, Alex Nieves, Davida Patterson, and Omar Quinones and \$750 to Ja Toni Anson Killebrew;
- Delight Groves Scholarship of \$750 to Chris Mercado;
- Mark M. Davids Leadership Award of \$200 to Steven Martinez;
- Everett and Jane Houser Scholarship of \$1,000 to Daniel Servin;
- Steve McQueen Scholarship Award of \$1,000 to Raul Vega;
- Neile McQueen Scholarship of \$1,000 to Carlos Godinez;
- Terry McQueen Scholarship of \$1,000 to Victorina Sarmiento;
- Carmen Combs Scholarship of \$1,500 to Karen Villa;
- Don and Carol Bremer Endowed Aftercare Assistance Award of \$1,000 to Michael Orozco;
- Ed Korbel Scholarship of \$1,000 to Juan Villalobos;
- Max L. Scott Scholarship of \$1,500 to Casey Negrón and \$750 each to Forrest Callum, Roberto Chavez, and Charlie Thao;
- Joan C. Toomey Scholarship of \$750 to Seth Waite;
- Klein Family Scholarship of \$1,000 to Zane Kafaja;
- Elizabeth Winkler Memorial Scholarship of \$1,000 to Randy Villegas;
- Paul and Mary Ganobcik “Nothing Without Labor” Scholarship of \$1,000 to Dominic Cottini;
- Dane Dixon Scholarship of \$1,000 to Samuel Castro-Corona;

(Please turn to page 8)

Memorials Honor Special People, Events Through the Lives of Children

A memorial contribution to Boys Republic and Girls Republic is a meaningful way to honor a special person, a special event or the memory of a friend or loved one. Your gift will reap a second benefit as well by contributing directly to the programs of Boys and Girls Republic. In this way, the honor paid the designee will live on perpetually in the lives of the deserving young people you have helped.

The following are memorial and commemorative contributions made from August 1, 2017 through November 3, 2017.

Donor / In Memory of:

Anonymous / Marion E. Box
Anonymous / Dorris Harris
Anonymous / Steve McQueen
Anonymous / Steve McQueen
Anonymous / Steve McQueen
Anonymous /

Raymond Vernimme
Mr. Ted T. Akahori /
Tomi Akahori
Mr. and Mrs. W. Reid Allen, Jr.
/ Fred Allen
Dr. Patricia Baccash /
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Mr. John Clark / Bruce Oliver
Ms. Karen Cochran /
Jeff Cochran
Dr. Linda I. De Long and
Charles B. De Long /
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Mr. John P. Flores /
John V. Flores
Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Gadd /
Vincent B. Gonzalez
Mr. and Mrs. Mike Goldberg /
Sherri Rae Rasmussen
Ms. Karen Hadley /
Edward Jones
Mrs. Diane Horwitz /
Bev Batterson
Mrs. Donald Kral / Donald Kral
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Leist /
R. J. Leist
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Mark Hardwick
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Ms. Genevieve Morales /
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Republic / Maria Guzman
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Mr. Gimlet M. Quijano-Sur /
Joseph Thrash
Ms. Carol Size / Bob Size
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Betty Giannini
Ms. Corrine Van Dyk /
Hill Goedhart
Ms. Joanne Van Emburgh /
Earl Van Emburgh
Mr. and Mrs. Richard P.
Williams /
Timothy Greenman
Mr. T. Sam Ziady /
Joan Hilyer Phelps

Donor / In Honor of:

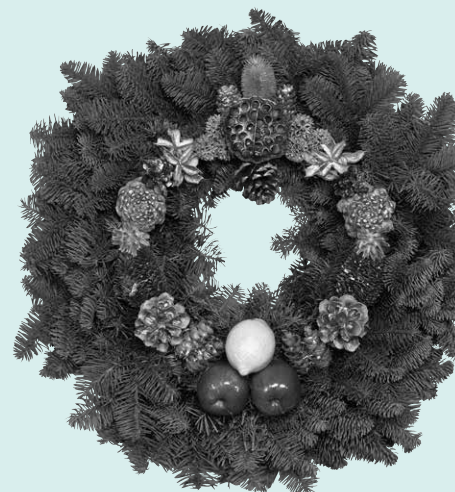
Anonymous / Alison
Anonymous /
The Bakery Program
Mr. Brian Francis Gildner /
R. Barboa
Mr. Brian Francis Gildner /
R. Barboa
Mr. Brian Francis Gildner /
R. Barboa
Ms. Penny Maciel /
Gaylord Grover
Mr. Mike Nelson /
Ron and Pat Harris
Ms. Deborah K. Streiber /
Vilma Palette

Boys Republic Report

Boys Republic Report is published three times yearly by Boys Republic, 1907 Boys Republic Drive, Chino Hills, CA 91709. (909) 628-1217.

Boys Republic and Girls Republic are private, non-profit, non-sectarian agencies helping troubled children aged 13 to 18. Rules for acceptance and participation in these programs are the same for everyone without regard for race, color, national origin, age, sex or handicap.

www.boysrepublic.org



Students Reap Rich Harvest at Annual Awards Ceremony

(Continued from page 6)



PAULINA RAMOS ('11) won the 2017 Alumna-of-the-Year Award. Ms. Ramos, a former Monrovia Day Treatment student, now owns and operates her own hair salon.

- Friends of Steve McQueen Car Show Scholarship/Bruce Oliver Memorial of \$1,000 to David Monroy;
- Pasadena Auxiliary Past Presidents Scholarship of \$1,000 to Anthony Angeles;
- Boys Republic Staff Scholarship of \$2,200 to Adrian Ornellas;
- Virginia Pease Hunt Scholarship of \$2,500 to Steven Martinez;
- Debbie Montano Memorial Scholarship of \$1,500 to Seth Waite;
- Boys Republic Board of Directors/Advisory Board Scholarship of \$1,750 to Larry Lopez;
- Orange County Auxiliary/Garry Hodge Scholarship of \$1,000 to Joseph Dutton;
- H. B. Bell Scholarship of \$1,000 to Jesus Ramos;
- Dick Reichelderfer and Frances Kurilich Scholarship of \$1,000 to Jeremiah Dissette;
- Rams Head Award was presented to employee Duane Scott.